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## Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

This week, as we celebrate Jewish Heritage Week, we pray for the Jewish people and for the crisis in the Middle East. My prayer is taken from the Jewish Book of Service, Daily Prayers. Let us pray.

*We gratefully acknowledge that You are the Eternal One, our God, and the God of our fathers evermore; the Rock of our life and the Shield of our salvation. You are He who exists to all ages. We will therefore render thanks unto You and declare Your praise for our lives, which are delivered into Your hand and for our souls, which are confided in Your care; for Your goodness, which is displayed to us daily; for Your wonders and Your bounty, which are at all times given to us. You are the most gracious, for Your mercies never fail. Evermore we hope in You, O Lord our God. Amen.*

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 15, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to exceed beyond the hour of 2 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as the Chair has announced, there will be a period of morning business until 2 p.m. Senator DORGAN, by virtue of a previous order, is going to use 30 minutes of that time. At 2 p.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the Border Security Act. There will be a rollcall vote this afternoon at 5:30 in relation to the Border Security Act or an Executive Calendar nomination.

### MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 1009

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand H.R. 1009 is at the desk and is due for its second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. I ask that H.R. 1009 be read for a second time, and then I ob-

ject to any further proceedings at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1009) to repeal the prohibition on the payment of interest on demand deposits.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

### PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, last week a number of pharmaceutical companies announced a new program by which some Medicare enrollees, particularly those at the lower income levels, will be able to access prescription drugs at a lower price. Let me compliment them for that. These companies are certainly moving in the right direction by recognizing that price is a very serious problem for a lot of Americans with respect to prescription drugs. The companies that founded Together Rx are Abbott Laboratories, AstraZeneca, Aventis Pharmaceuticals, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, and Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation. Pfizer and Eli Lilly have separate programs that they have already announced. I think it is a step forward, and I compliment these companies.

We have much more to do, but having been very critical of the prescription drug manufacturers for price increases, let me say thanks for these programs because they will benefit a good number of lower income senior citizens.

However, let me describe one of the problems that still exists. This chart is of a Washington Post article, from within the last month, "Prescription Drug Spending Rises 17 Percent in the Last Year." There have been double-digit increases year after year after year after year for prescription drugs.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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